

CLAIMS

1. A foil-decorating injection molding apparatus comprising at least a male mold, a female mold, a transport chuck for feeding a decorative sheet between said male mold and said female mold, and a clamper for pressing and fastening said sheet on a parting surface of said female mold, wherein:

said transport chuck comprises two clamping devices by which both side edges of said decorative sheet can be clamped; and

said clamper comprises a pushing frame that abuts on said parting surface of said female mold via said decorative sheet when said decorative sheet is pressed and fastened, and at least one connecting member connecting said pushing frame and means of driving said pushing frame, wherein:

said clamper is formed in such a shape that, when said pushing frame is in abutment with said parting surface of said female mold, there is established a space between said connecting member and said parting surface in which said clamping devices can pass through.

2. The foil-decorating injection molding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said transport chuck is movable in the direction perpendicular to the direction in which said male mold and said female mold are moved towards or away from each other, the position of said transport chuck is fixed with respect to said female mold in said direction, and said decorative sheet is fed from a reel fixed to said female mold.

3. A foil-decorating injection molding method that employs the foil-decorating injection molding apparatus according to claim 1, said method comprising feeding said decorative sheet between said male mold and said female mold by moving said clamping devices of said transport chuck with said decorative sheet being clamped by said clamping devices, pressing and

fastening said sheet onto said parting surface by said clamper, releasing the grasping of said sheet by said clamping devices while maintaining the pressed state, and bringing said clamping devices back to their original position through the space between said clamper and said female mold.

4. A foil-decorating injection molding method employing the foil-decorating injection molding apparatus according to claim 2, said method comprising: feeding said decorative sheet between said male mold and said female mold by moving said clamping devices of said transport chuck with said sheet being clamped by said clamping devices; pressing and fastening said sheet onto said parting surface of said female mold by said clamper; releasing the grasping of said sheet by said clamping devices while maintaining the pressed state; bringing said clamping devices back to their original position through the space between said clamper and said female mold; and separating said female mold and said female mold while simultaneously feeding a new decorative sheet between said male mold and said female mold by said transport chuck.